'Chicano' Spokesman Dead in L.A. Violence

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LOS ANGELES, Aug. 30 — A 10-block area was sealed off today after Saturday's violence in East Los Angeles. The riot cost the life of a leading spokesman for Mexican-American rights, left more than 60 persons injured, resulted in 185 arrests and caused property damage estimated at $1 million.

Heavily armed police patrolled East Los Angeles, which was relatively peaceful today.

Most of the violence, which erupted after an anti-war parade, occurred along Whittier Boulevard.

Police estimated that 178 businesses were damaged. Seven shops were extensively damaged by fire.

Charges against those arrested included assault on a police officer, arson, burglary and failure to disperse.

Killed during the rioting was Ruben Salazar, 42, a columnist for The Los Angeles Times and news director for Los Angeles television station KMEX.

Homicide detectives said Salazar, who was found dead on the floor of the Silver Dollar Cafe on Whittier Boulevard, was killed by a tear gas canister fired into the cafe in an attempt to clear it out.

Two other persons were in critical condition. Ernest H. Lara, address unknown, was shot when he reportedly made an attempt to run a sheriff's barricade on Whittier Boulevard. Lynn Ward, 15, of El Monte, Calif., suffered chest, head and internal injuries. It is believed Ward was injured when a tear gas cannister exploded near him.

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Meanwhile, the chairman of the National Chicano Moratorium Committee, which organized the parade that preceded the rioting, charged that sheriff's deputies moved into the crowd without warning.

The violence erupted about 3 p.m. Saturday at the close of the parade which attracted between 15,000 and 20,000 people. The parade was held to demonstrate Mexican-American—or "Chicano"—opposition to the war in Southeast Asia.

Marchers moved to Laguna Park at Whittier Boulevard where there was to be a post-parade rally.

A sheriff's department spokesman said the trouble began when officers moved into the area to prevent looting of a nearby liquor store.

After deputies arrived in force, a crowd gathered near the fringe of Laguna Park and began throwing rocks and bottles, police said.

Skirmishing erupted and then tear gas was fired into the crowd.

Before peace was restored some five hours later, about 500 police and sheriff's deputies had been sent into the area.

Looting was widespread and the seven shops heavily damaged had been firebombed.

Rosalio Munoz, chairman of the committee that organized the parade, said deputies could have prevented much of the violence by not firing tear gas into the gathering at Laguna Park.

He said he and other parade organizers had been working closely with the sheriff's department for two months before the parade and that a plan had been worked out to prevent trouble.

Munoz said deputies fired tear gas into the crowd without warning and that none of the parade organizers was asked for assistance.

[In Washington, Nick Reyes, executive director of the National Mexican-American Anti-Defamation Committee, said his group would call for "a detailed and full investigation by the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department.